
SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

July 2018

Summer 2018

Living a Vibrant Faith



- Back to Basics
- Embracing Faith Thru Relationships
- Faith Talk Follows Faith Walk
- Faith Stories Begin with Me
- Partnering Faith in Home with Church
- Living into a Faith-filled Future

Pastor's Page:

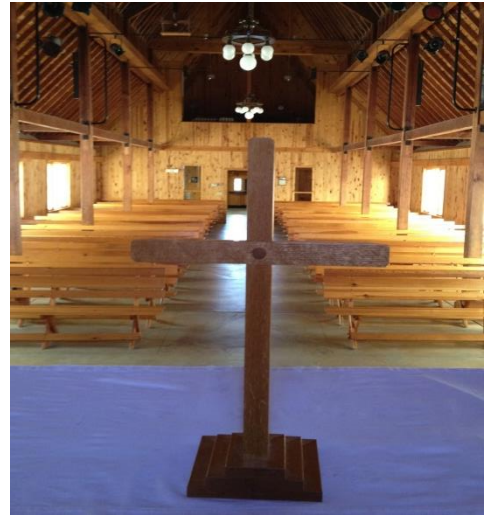
Where there is no vision, the people perish: but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.
Proverbs 29:18

At the SW-MN Synod Assembly last month, I talked to Travis Aufderheide. He was a representative for Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp (GLLM) and was greeting people beside the camp's display. He told me they had just finished two weeks of staff training. And he was enthusiastic about the young people they had recruited for their 2018 summer staff. Sixty-five of them, college age types were just beginning their summer adventure.

You will remember Travis. He's the new executive director at the bible camp. Plus there is a more familiar recognition. Travis comes from New Ulm. For 18 - 20 years he was a kid growing up here at OSLC. By his telling, he was one of those young-uns who stretched the limits... patience... toleration... of everyone who worked with him. He was a busy guy. He rattles off the names of people who were his Sunday school teachers, youth directors, confirmation mentors, and friends. He even quips that Kathy had a "time-out" chair reserved just for him. And what is simply incredible is his appreciation. He looks back at those years with these words "I love that congregation, I love Our Saviors". I know - You know - Love is a reciprocated emotion. To say that someone loves OSLC makes a bold statement about what they learned here!

There is more! Travis went on to tell me about his welcoming speech, at orientation, to those new 2018 summer staffers. He literally told them about the church of his childhood. The church back in New Ulm, MN. He offered them an insight into being taught the love of Jesus... Sometimes with words, but mostly with the ways people treated each other – treated him. He told those 65 college kids about welcoming and inviting. He talked about compassionate caring – all things he learned from his home congregation. Oh – and did I mention, he told them that he LOVES "that congregation!" He loves Our Savior's!

This is what strikes me – once upon a time OSLC was getting things right. We were caring for people and teaching them love. We had a vision of compassion



and were affirming God's love by loving people. That doesn't just happen in congregations. It's the result of having a vision. We had a purpose. We saw ourselves as the hands, the feet, the heart of Jesus. Funny thing about vision, it gives a sense of focus and identity. Listening to Travis, there must have been enthusiasm, excitement and energy for "doing church". Notice how I say that. To "be" a church is a passive activity. To "DO" church is to engage in activities with passion and gusto. The church Travis remembers was a healthy place with joy for serving and loving. Thank You for those wonderful memories!

So what about today? What do we have a passion for doing in 2018? Those questions are always appropriate. It's about renewing an orientation that tugs us back to understanding our core. Who are we? Where do we see Jesus? What is God up to among us? And, how are we living out our faith?

In July we will start a summer sermon series called "**Living a Vibrant faith**". Come and help me figure this out!

Pastor Gene

Ministry Focus

Congregational Meeting Insights

On June 3rd we had a congregational meeting and made two changes. Both were recommended by the Church Council. The first one was constitutional. We added two bylaws that will facilitate communication between teams and committees. The church council, as one of those boards, needed to have a way of knowing what other committees were doing. And the committees needed an opportunity to brainstorm and share ideas. The constitutional piece should help our communication be much more vital and relevant between them.

The second piece was a staffing transition plan. The Church Council brought concerns about “right sizing” our staff to current realities. It was initiated by the way we’ve been using up financial reserves over the past several years. Plus, our Sunday worship attendance has been dropping. Five and ten years ago there was an average of close to 400. Today, the average attendance nestles around 280/Sunday. In the budget, staffing is a major portion of our expenses. The council’s proposal was to redefine staffing at a level that is realistic with the numbers we have in 2018. After a hearty discussion, the congregation voted to accept the council’s recommendation to reduce one staff position. We can accomplish that by combining the Youth Director and the Associate Pastor positions.

A couple of important insights: Two pastors are an important priority at Our Savior’s. And, having someone to work directly with youth is also an important priority. We will maintain both with the new “right sizing” transition plan. Details will need to be figured out. Some things will blend together easily. Pastor Dave has an incredible heart for youth, which makes the transition smoother. Yet, two positions cannot just merge. There are a lot of details – some responsibilities will need to be shifted to other staff and/or volunteers. Some may need to be retired. And other tasks will need to be reprioritized.



Join Us for
Family Movie
Night at OSLC!
July 10th at 7pm

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets!
We'll bring the 'drive-in' inside where
the lights go down at 7:00pm and
there are NO BUGS! The popcorn and
lemonade will be ready at show time.

YOU decide which movie we see:

Vote by placing a coin in the jar with the movie title
you most want to watch. Vote will be counted by
number of coins rather than value of coins. **All
proceeds will be added to the next noisy offering.*



Inspired by the imagination
of P.T. Barnum,
The Greatest Showman is an
original musical that
celebrates the birth of show
business & tells of a
visionary who rose from nothing to create a
spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

Based on the New York Times
bestseller, **WONDER** tells the
inspiring and heartwarming
story of August Pullman, a
boy with facial differences
who enters fifth grade,
attending a mainstream
elementary school for the first time.



Growing up can be a bumpy
road, and it's no exception
for Riley, who is uprooted
from her Midwest life when
her father starts a new job in
San Francisco. Like all of us, Riley is guided by her
emotions - Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness.



OSLC Bulletin Board June 2018

Adult Ministry Team

1. Prayer Walk June 24th, 1pm at Flandrau. We'd love to see you there!
2. Movie Night Tuesday, July 10th, 7pm. Vote for what movie we will watch (Wonder – The Greatest Showman – Inside Out).
3. Working on a plan for a study in the fall. If you have ideas, suggest them to the team and we'll see what we can do!

Deacon Ministry Team

1. Reviewed Role and Responsibilities
2. Went over how to serve communion: How much to fill cups and what to do for people needing help with the smaller cups

Fellowship Ministry Team

1. Thank you for coming to the congregational meeting!
2. Working with VBS to build some community with members who are unable to get to church

Missions Ministry Team

1. Summer Church Function
2. Noisy Offering
3. Washington School
4. Adult Mission Trip

OSLC Mystery Trip!

Early on July 15, eight youth and three Chaperones will be leaving Our Savior's to go... somewhere! Actually, we know where we're going. I just wanted to keep up a little suspense. It is a "Mystery Trip" after all. We will be going to Yellowstone with stops along the way and back.

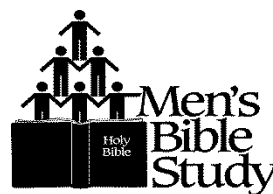
On this trip we will be serving, working, learning, praying, and growing together. I can't wait! We have days dedicated to helping others; days dedicated to growing our spiritual lives; days dedicated to learning about each other and developing relationships. It's not just a mission trip... It's a Mystery Trip.

I love this idea of "Mystery" as a part of our trip and our faith. Paul writes in his letter to the Colossians, "I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself." (Colossians 2:2) Paul is talking about a hope for unity among Christians through that mystery of God, Jesus Christ. The Greek word in this passage *musterion* (**μυστήριον**) literally means hidden or confusing. Paul used this word because the work of God in our lives is never straight forward.

That's why I'm excited to explore "mystery." We have a God who loves us and works in our lives in ways we can't understand. This trip gives us a chance to wrestle with that mystery and grow deeper into the mystery of God; grow deeper into our faith in Jesus Christ.

Please pray for the youth going on this trip and their chaperones (especially their chaperones) and be prepared to hear about their celebration of the mystery of God!

Blessings and Peace,
Pr. Dave



Men's Bible Study Note:

The men's Bible study group plans to meet July 14 & August 11 and will return to their normal weekly schedule in September.

Newsletter Deadline: Please have items for the next newsletter to JoEllen by **July 19**. Thank you.

Washington School:

This Mission Team encourages that we again support all of the early childhood programs at Washington School with other items, in addition to school supplies that they will need.

Examples include: additional tissues, wipes, socks, underwear, markers, crayons, glue

Should you wish to contribute, look for a display table and collection baskets in the church social hall starting mid-July to mid-August! There will be example items of what could be purchased, shopping lists, and donation envelopes that could be submitted in the church offering.

The noisy offering in July will go towards Washington School to purchase a special need.

Our Savior's Mission Ministry Team

Thank You Notes

Thank you to our church family for keeping us both in your prayers.

Much appreciated,
Glenn & Darla Swanson

Dear ladies who made the quilts,

Thank you so much for such a comfortable and loving gift that should last a lifetime. The whole senior class loved their blankets and I thank you for putting all that time and effort in for all of us.

Thank you,
Logan Kalis

I want to thank all for the support and cards that have meant so much to me with my problem. I am so grateful to have my church family.

Thanks again,
Sharon Hulke

In & beyond our COMMUNITY

CashWise Brat Stand

Pro Kinship

July 11 & 12

10AM-6PM

Come on down to support Pro Kinship for Kids by buying food at the brat stand. Pro Kinship staff will be available to answer questions and tell you about the program. You can get involved by mentoring a child that needs you from Brown County or if your child could use an extra support person or group activities, talk to us.

Dairy Queen Blizzard Day – Plus a real feel for what Pro Kinship for Kids is all about

July 13 – All day Blizzard sales

Crafts & Games from 4-7pm

Come buy a Blizzard any time on Friday, July 13, 2018 at the New Ulm Dairy Queen and a portion of the amount you pay for your Blizzard will go to fund Pro Kinship for Kids activities. Staff and volunteers of Pro Kinship will be available to answer questions and tell you about the program.

Growing Wise Science and Music Day Camp

Drawing inspiration from nature, students will collaborate on group projects:

- Creating a short film of the natural world and composing the score
- Writing a short music theater piece about the natural world
- Creating an audio collage using captured sounds in nature
- Creating a short audio play with original music

Register now – www.growingwise.mutadra.com

\$45 per student – ages 12-18

Registration is limited to 15 participants, so apply now!

Sponsored by OPTIMIST International

Fire

by Judy Brown

What makes a fire burn
is space between the logs,
a breathing space.
Too much of a good thing,
too many logs
packed in too tight
can douse the flames
almost as surely
as a pail of water would.

So building fires
requires attention
to the spaces in between,
as much as to the wood.

When we are able to build
open spaces
in the same way
we have learned
to pile on the logs,
then we can come to see how
it is fuel, and absence of the fuel
together, that make fire possible.

We only need to lay a log
lightly from time to time.
A fire grows
simply because the space is there,
with openings
in which the flame
that knows just how it wants to burn
can find its way.



A pencil maker told the pencil 5 important lessons just before putting it in the box:

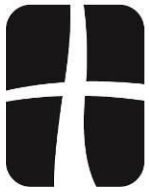
1. Everything you do will always leave a mark.
2. You can always correct the mistakes you make.
3. What is important is what is inside of you.
4. In life, you will undergo painful sharpenings, which will only make you better.
5. To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

We all need to be constantly sharpened. This parable may encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside of you and then allow yourself to be guided by the hand of God.

JULY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Ministry Team	2	3 9:30 AM Church Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Text Study - Pastor's Meeting 7:00 PM Youth Ministry Team	4 Independence Day Church Offices Closed	5 Interim Pastor's Meeting 4:00 PM Prokinship Monthly Meeting	6	7 5:30 PM Worship
8 9:00 AM Worship	9 3:00 PM Ridgeway on German Service 4:00 PM Oak Hills Service	10 3 Points OSLC Bulletin Board Deadline 9:30 AM Church Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Text Study - Pastor's Meeting 7:00 PM Movie night	11 9:00 AM Cards of Caring 5:30 PM Mission Ministry Team	12 1:30 PM Ridgeway on 23rd Service 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader's Meeting	13	14 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Worship
15 Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Facilities & Grounds Ministry Team 10:15 AM Executive Council Meeting	16 Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip	17 Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip 9:30 AM Church Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Text Study - Pastor's Meeting 5:30 PM Personnel Committee 7:00 PM Deacons Ministry Team	18 Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip	19 Newsletter Articles Due Today Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip	20 Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip	21 Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip 5:30 PM Worship
22 Youth Summer Trip: Mystery Trip 9:00 AM Worship	23 7:00 PM Adult Ministry Team Meeting	24 9:30 AM Church Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Text Study - Pastor's Meeting 6:00 PM Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council	25	26 First Call Pastor's Meeting	27	28 5:30 PM Worship
29 Noisy Offering Sunday 9:00 AM Worship	30	31 9:30 AM Church Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Text Study - Pastor's Meeting				

Annual Quilt Auction
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries
Green Lake Bible Camp – 9916 Lake Ave S, Spicer, MN
Saturday, July 28
Auction begins at 11:30 AM
Live online bidding at www.gllm.org
 Lunch available on site
 For more information – visit the Green Lake website at www.gllm.org



OUR SAVIOR'S

Lutheran Church

NEW ULM, MN

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
New Ulm, MN
Permit #6

1400 South State Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-233-4430

Website: www.oursaviorsnewulm.org

Worship Services

Saturday worship – 5:30 PM

Sunday worship – 9:00 AM

Regular Broadcasts

(Comcast Channel 14; Nuvera Channel 3)

Mon.–7 PM; Thurs.–11:00 AM & 5 PM

SIDELITES

OUR **SAVIOR'S** is a Welcoming
community, experiencing **God**,
reaching out and raising up followers of
Jesus Christ